

EXHIBIT 18
DATE 01/14/2013
HB 30



MISSOULA COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER/TREASURER
200 WEST BROADWAY
MISSOULA MT 59802

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To: Charman Pat Ingraham &
State Administration Committee Members

From: Vickie M. Zeier, Missoula County Clerk & Recorder/Treasurer

Date: January 11, 2013

Re: HB 30

Chair Ingraham and Committee Members,

I regret I am unable to attend the hearing for House Bill 30 on Monday, January 14, 2013. Please accept my written comments. I oppose HB 30 – Revise late registration laws.

In 1992, I assisted a Vietnam Veteran who waited in line for over an hour to vote. When he reached the election judge, he learned he was not registered. He had just moved to Missoula County from Ravalli County and he insisted he completed a new voter registration card prior to the election. Unfortunately, we had not received it. I regretted having to tell this veteran that he could not vote. Today, I can instruct all eligible citizens to take advantage of late registration by receiving a ballot and voting on Election Day.

Administering late registration is difficult for a number of reasons. It's difficult to anticipate the number of people who will register on Election Day, professional staff is at a premium, we often lack sufficient space, it's difficult to anticipate the number of ballots needed, just to name a few. However, those difficulties should not result in a change in the law. In Missoula County over 2,500 individuals used late registration during the November 2012 election cycle. The estimate numbers of late registrations by age group are:

50 years & older	371
30 years to 49 years	1000
18 years to 29 years	1365

Voters of all ages seek the opportunity to participate in democracy on Election Day despite potentially long lines and uncomfortable waiting areas.

As an Election Administrator it is my responsibility to promote access to the election process while maintaining the highest level of integrity. I cannot support HB 30 because Election Administrators should not be put in the position to tell eligible citizens they cannot vote.

Thank you for considering my remarks.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Vickie Zeier". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Vickie Zeier
Missoula County Elections Administrator